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ARTICLES:

(1) Magma welling up as moves to "oust Aso" begin

YOMIURI (Page 4) (Full)
June 19, 2009

Some 15 junior Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) Diet members, members of the "association of the third generation for the LDP's reform" organized in June, gathered at traditional pub near the Diet on the evening of June 16. The motto of this group is "bow not to pressure from above and fear no bloodshed in the party."

The subject of the discussion was the sharp drop in the Aso cabinet's support rating after the replacement of former Minister of Internal Affairs and Communications Kunio Hatoyama. House of Councillors member Kazuya Maruyama said: "The prime minister should explain to a general meeting of members of both houses." House of Representatives member Seiji Hagiwara noted: "If you do that, it will lead to a political crisis." Chuko Hayakawa, parliamentary secretary of justice, followed with: "That's why we are doing it." Hayakawa is a leading advocate of speeding up the LDP presidential election.

The participants also talked about possible successors to Aso. "How about having a 'President Kunio Hatoyama' and realizing a Hato-Hato match with Democratic Party of Japan President Yukio Hatoyama?"

"I prefer Minister of Health, Labor and Welfare Masuzoe, who is popular."

Both former prime ministers Abe and Fukuda just gave up on their administrations and resigned. There is strong public backlash against changing the prime minister just to prolong the administration, and this is making LDP lawmakers reluctant to try to oust Aso. However, the number of Diet members who think that there are still benefits in replacing the unpopular Aso despite possible

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criticisms is growing. A magma is beginning to well up with moves to oust Aso beginning.

The "volunteer association of Diet members seeking prompt implementation of policies" who include former Chief Cabinet Secretary Yasuhisa Shiozaki, who has distanced himself from Aso, agreed at a meeting on June 18 to draw up their own manifesto (election pledges) and cooperate with other groups contemplating similar activities. One member of this group said: "This is a coup disguised as a manifesto."

Aso's term of office as LDP president expires on September 30. Lower House member Taku Yamamoto, who is conducting a signature campaign to demand a speeding up of the date for the president election, wrote on his Internet homepage on June 17 that over 80 Diet members have given their support.

The Shizuoka gubernatorial election takes place on July 5 and the Tokyo Metropolitan Assembly election on July 12. The Tokyo election, in particular, will be an indicator of the outcome of the Lower House election. There is a growing opinion that Aso will step down if the LDP loses big in the Tokyo election.

This unrest is not only among mid-ranking and junior lawmakers. Senior officials of the number one LDP faction, Machimura's, held a secret meeting at the Diet Library in the early evening of June 16. Abe, who is close to Aso, called for persisting in supporting Aso. He said: "Our faction produced (Prime Ministers) Koizumi, Abe, and Fukuda. We endorsed Mr Aso. Think of the criticism we will be facing if we change the prime minister again."

Former Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori and former Chief Cabinet Secretary Nobutaka Machimura also nodded their approval. However, some also felt that "in case of a defeat in the Tokyo election, the political situation will become volatile," while others talked about holding the election in October, after the Lower House's term of office expires (on September 10).

Former Vice President Taku Yamasaki told the general meeting of the Yamasaki faction on June 18:

"The Tokyo Metropolitan Assembly election will serve as an indicator of the political situation from now on. Let us put every effort into it. If trouble -- such as the creation of a new party -- occurs

before the Lower House election, our party will sink like the Titanic."

(2) Poll on Aso cabinet, political parties

NIKKEI (Page 3) (Full)

June 16, 2009

Questions & Answers

(Figures shown in percentage. Parentheses denote findings from the last survey conducted in May.)

Q: Do you support the Aso cabinet?

Yes 25 (30)

No 65 (62)

Can't say (C/S) + don't know (D/K) 10 (8)

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Q: Which political party do you support or like?

Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) 31 (33)

Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ or Minshuto) 37 (38)

New Komeito (NK) 3 (4)

Japanese Communist Party (JCP) 4 (3)

Social Democratic Party (SDP or Shaminto) 2 (1)

People's New Party (PNP or Kokumin Shinto) 1 (0)

Reform Club (RC or Kaikaku Kurabu) 0 (0)

New Party Nippon (NPN or Shinto Nippon) 0 (0)

Other political parties 1 (0)

None 14 (16)

C/S+D/K 7 (4)

(Note) The total percentage does not become 100 PERCENT in some cases due to rounding.

Polling methodology: The survey was taken by Nikkei Research Inc. by telephone on a random digit dialing (RDD) basis. For the survey, samples were chosen from among men and women aged 20 and over across the nation. A total of 1,229 households with one or more eligible voters were sampled, and answers were obtained from 720 persons (58.6 PERCENT).

(3) Unable to make realistic responses -- Part 4 of series "DPJ's risky 'fraternal' foreign policy"

SANKEI (Page 3) (Full)

June 19, 2009

On March 14, the Maritime Self-Defense Force (MSDF) escort ships "Sazanami" and "Samidare" left port for the anti-piracy mission in waters off Somalia. As the vessels departed, they were shining brightly in the sunlight at the Kure base in Hiroshima Prefecture.

This scene was a bit too much for Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ) House of Representatives member Akihisa Nagashima, who came to see them off.

Nagashima had been arguing that the security of the sea lanes connecting Europe and Asia is critical for Japan and that escorting by MSDF ships would be effective. However, his colleagues in the DPJ did not share this view.

Commenting on the two ships' taking off under Article 82 of the SDF Law regarding maritime security operations, then Secretary General Yukio Hatoyama asked the question: "Why the rush to sail off now without a new law?" Policy Research Committee Chairman Masayuki Naoshima also issued a statement saying: "The proper thing to do is to enact a new law under a new administration after obtaining a mandate from the people." They stopped short of opposing outright, but did not give their approval either.

Nagashima had thought that he would be the only one from his party seeing the MSDF contingent off, but DPJ Lower House member elected by proportional representation Mitsuo Mitani and House of

Councillors member Koshin Fujitani also attended the ceremony.

In his speech on this occasion, Prime Minister Taro Aso said: "Piracy is a common enemy of mankind." It was Nagashima who drew a statement from the prime minister on "studying" anti-piracy measures at the Lower House special antiterrorism committee last October.

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Listening to Aso expressing his determination five months later, Nagashima thought "the prime minister must have wanted to make this happen very badly." On the other hand, the DPJ has remained undecided on its anti-piracy policy.

The DPJ Diet members also waved their hands as the MSDF officers waved their hats when the ships set sail. Nagashima went home sullenly thinking it would have been very inspiring for the crew members if he had been a representative of his party.

Agreement on opposing the government's proposal

One can safely say the following about the DPJ's decision-making process on foreign and security policies: inconclusive, time-consuming, and unrealistic. The same problem emerged in the anti-piracy issue. The reason is that the party was formed through a mixture of leftist and rightist groups. It is difficult to build a consensus because their positions on the state and the constitution do not mix, like oil and water.

When Nagashima advocated the need to dispatch the MSDF, former Japan Socialist Party members, who do not want to allow any overseas missions by the SDF, would not even listen.

Social Democratic Party (SDP) leader Mizuho Fukushima, who was invited to the DPJ convention in January as a guest, said flatly: "We oppose sending SDF troops to waters off Somalia. We say no to passing a law on this." This was a statement that was made clearly conscious of the fact that the DPJ could not ignore the views of the SDP and other opposition parties since it envisions a coalition government with them eventually.

The DPJ does not control a majority in the Upper House. It is only able to project the will of the Upper House through cooperation with the People's New Party (PNP) and the SDP. In the end, the easy way out to reach an agreement within the party and form a united front with the other opposition parties was to oppose the ruling parties' proposal. The delay in its anti-piracy policy was also a result of its waiting for the response of the government and the ruling parties.

"Let's accept the MSDF dispatch"

Former party president Ichiro Ozawa made the problem even more complicated because many times, he would overturn policies made at the working level with his own decisions. Two years ago, Ozawa pronounced the MSDF's refueling operation under the special antiterrorism measures law to be "unconstitutional." However, the DPJ had never said so before that.

Eight years ago, when Hatoyama was president, although the party opposed the special antiterrorism law because its proposal on the requirement for prior Diet approval was rejected, it had given its approval on the SDF mission itself.

Many Diet members could not believe their ears when they heard the sudden verdict of unconstitutionality. No one bothered to ask Ozawa directly. Treating him ever so delicately continues up to this day.

Taking over the administration will mean making quick policy choices to realize the national interest of Japan and the interests of its people. Even party members are now gravely concerned about whether

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the DPJ is capable of doing that.

Vice President Seiji Maehara raised the question of anti-piracy policy at the Standing Officers Council meeting on January 27 and said: "We should decide on the DPJ's own thinking on this first." He had also talked about the need for MSDF dispatch at supra-partisan parliamentary groups.

A senior PNP official called Maehara to complain that "anti-piracy is the job of the Japan Coast Guard (JCG)." While Maehara had refuted him with: "Go study the JCG's situation. The JCG itself is saying that they are incapable of handling this job." The DPJ's proposed revisions to the anti-piracy bill as compiled in April put the primary responsibility for anti-piracy measures on the JCG.

According to a nationwide public opinion poll conducted by the Cabinet Office in January, over 60 percent of the respondents were positive about anti-piracy measures in waters off Somalia.

This shows that the people want a realistic response to the piracy problem, but the DPJ does not seem to realize the significance of this message.

(4) U.S. Consul General Maher: Futenma relocation should be implemented as agreed

RYUKYU SHIMPO (Page 3) (Full)
June 19, 2009

Tokyo

U.S. Consul General Kevin Maher yesterday spoke on such subjects as the realignment of U.S. forces in Japan before a study group session of influential legislators from the Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ) and the People's New Party (PNP). The session was held at the House of Representatives Members' Building. Referring to the DPJ's assertion that the U.S. Marine Corps' Air Station Futenma would be relocated outside of Okinawa if the party assumed the reins of government, Maher reiterated his view that it would be difficult to consider relocating the base out of Okinawa. He stated: "The position of the U.S. government is to implement the existing U.S.-Japan agreement as written."

Maher took a negative view toward the DPJ's call for a review of the contents of the agreement on relocating U.S. Marines from Okinawa to Guam. He stressed: "The agreement should be implemented as is." He explained the importance of the Japan-U.S. security arrangements and the realignment of U.S. forces in Japan.

More than a dozen lawmakers, including PNP Lower House member Mikio Shimoji and DPJ Upper House member Shokichi Kina, attended the study group session.

(5) Three non-nuclear principles must be partially relaxed

SANKEI (Page 7) (Abridged)
June 19, 2009

Masashi Nishihara, president of the Research Institute for Peace and Security

Effectiveness of UN Security Council resolution questionable

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The UN Security Council has finally adopted a sanctions resolution in response to North Korea's second nuclear test in May. This resolution is stronger than Resolution 1718 that was adopted following the North's first nuclear test in October 2006. But in view of the fact that China, North Korea's close ally, tried for three weeks to weaken what would go into the latest dissolution, its effectiveness is questionable.

Under the resolution, member countries are allowed to inspect cargo on ships to and from North Korea in their territorial waters and the high seas if they have information that provides reasonable grounds to believe the cargo contains embargoed items. By taking advantage of this condition, some countries might try to avoid conducting

inspections by saying they do not have such information.

The resolution also prohibits the member countries from providing the North with new loans and aid except for humanitarian and developmental purposes. This means they are allowed to continue providing grants, loans and aid to North Korea. Given the situation, China might extend new grants and loans -- essentially a continuation of its economic aid -- to the North by interpreting humanitarian and developmental purposes in a broad sense.

Furthermore, if Pyongyang reverses its position and announces to return to the Six-Party Talks, many countries might not implement the sanctions, as was the case with the 2006 resolution.

Japan urged to join ship inspections early

Under such circumstances, Japan, the United States, South Korea and other countries must work together to increase the effectiveness of the UN sanctions by implementing their own sanctions measures at the same time. Fortunately, South Korea has already imposed severe economic sanctions on the North under President Lee Myung Bak. Japan, too, has taken additional steps. The Obama administration also appears to be considering such steps as its own financial sanctions and relisting the North as a state sponsor of terrorism. I expect they will generate a synergic effect.

Japan should swiftly announce its decision to carry out cargo inspections in the Sea of Japan and the East China Sea in close cooperation with the United States and South Korea based on the UN resolution.

The Aso administration plans to enact a new special measures law in the current Diet session that will enable the country to conduct ship inspections on the high seas. I welcome this move. The enactment of the legislation is likely to take time, however. The Diet might close before enacting the legislation. In such a case, cargo inspections on the high seas would have to be left to U.S. forces until the law clears the Diet. What if a suspicious ship refused inspections by U.S. forces? In my view, the Japan Coast Guard (JCG) should then jointly inspect the ship in question after it is brought to Japan's territorial waters by the flag state.

Inspecting ships entering and leaving North Korea involves such risks as skirmishes with the North and blowing themselves up after entering Japanese ports. A skirmish on the high seas might trigger an armed conflict in a different area. It is important for Japan and the United States to be armed with a set of joint steps to deal with unexpected events, such as a Nodong missile attack.

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The Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) National Defense Division has reportedly proposed that Japan possess enemy-base strike capabilities. What if an armed conflict escalated as a result of attacking an enemy base? How should Japan deal with such a situation? The answer to this question remains unclear. Considering the option of having capabilities to attack enemy base is important. But what is more important is to formulate joint operations by the Self-Defense Forces and U.S. forces and to coordinate operational command.

In order to bolster the United States' nuclear deterrent, Japan should also seriously consider altering its three non-nuclear principles to allow U.S. vessels carrying nuclear-tipped missiles to enter Japanese ports. UN sanctions are insufficient to contain North Korea's actions.

Settle abduction issue with a regime change

North Korea's recent moves - the nuclear test, missile launches, military activities near the Military Demarcation Line, and the declaration denying the ceasefire line - are all abnormal. In reaction to the latest UN resolution, Pyongyang has declared that it would begin uranium-enrichment work. Such an intimidation by North Korea must be regarded as a reversal of the regime's fragility. By putting on a brave front, the North is trying to have the upper hand

in future talks on its return to the Six-Party Talks and on removing UN sanctions.

Japan, the United States, South Korea, and other countries should set the sanctions' goal as regime change, going beyond a shift in the North's nuclear policy. They should not yield to intimidation. I also believe that prospects for a solution to the abduction issue will come only through regime change.

The economic fatigue of North Korea's elite (the Kim clan, the party, the government, and military brass officers) that is supporting the Kim Jong Il regime and the erosion of the military are certain to lower morale and to eventually result in a regime change. A resumption of financial sanctions by the United States, Japan's ban on remittances, and inspections of weapons trade will be effective in demoralizing the country. When the Kim Jong Il regime is faced with such a critical situation, I believe it will seek compromises (such as a suspension of nuclear tests and nuclear abandonment) with the rest of the world.

(6) U.S. Special Representative Bosworth stirring up North Korea policy

SHUKAN SHINCHO (Page 36) (Full)
June 25, 2009

North Korea has hinted at its withdrawal not only from the Six-Party Talks but also from the United Nations. The UN Security Council has adopted a sanctions resolution including financial sanctions against North Korea, but the North declared on June 13 that it will continue to develop nuclear weapons. Pyongyang announced that it will weaponize all of its plutonium.

According to a correspondent residing in Washington, while the threat to Japan of North Korea's nuclear development is heightening, the United States has made Pyongyang more impudent. The

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correspondent said:

"In particular, Stephen Bosworth, U.S. special representative for North Korea policy, is the biggest obstacle. I think he is neglecting his duty because he did not immediately release a statement even when North Korea announced its plan to make weapons using plutonium."

The correspondent added:

"He is the dean of the Fletcher School at Tufts University. He goes to the State Department once a week from Boston like a part-time worker. It seems he is serving as special representative for North Korea policy as a side job."

Bosworth was a career diplomat. As an expert on Korean Peninsula issues, he served as executive director of the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization and ambassador to South Korea. The correspondent said:

"He regards himself as a liberalist. He said, 'I don't think pressure on Kim Jong Il is effective. I'm ready to visit Pyongyang. I expect the North to return to the Six-Party Talks.' So saying, he has pushed ahead with a dialogue policy. There is a severe view in the State Department that his appointment appears to have sent the wrong message to North Korea."

Bosworth's reputation in Japan is not very good, which was also the case for his predecessor Christopher Hill, who was dubbed Kim Jong Hill for his excessively mild policy toward North Korea. Hill serves now as ambassador to Iraq.

A Foreign Ministry source said: "Senior ministry officials have said that it is useless to spend time with Bosworth as he has no concrete measures, but just insists on the need for dialogue."

Tadae Takubo, a diplomatic analyst, pointed out:

"North Korea observed the reaction of the United States by taking a series of actions. But Bosworth did not change his policy line. Therefore, North Korea looked down on the United States and that's probably why it mentioned its plan to produce weapons using plutonium. He does not bring any benefits to Japan."

(7) Priority measures against child pornography

NIKKEI (Page 20) (Abridged slightly)
Evening, June 18, 2009

The National Police Agency (NPA) has mapped out a priority program to be tackled to root out child pornography, which is flooding the Internet, and has notified prefectoral police departments of the program, which calls for a team of specialists on image analysis to be set up in the NPA. A support system for victimized children, such as a counseling system, will also be improved. The NPA will promote measures to clean the tarnished image of Japan being a backward country in terms of measures to prevent child pornography.

Child pornography is defined as any visual depiction or animated films of children under the age 18 pursuing sexual intercourses or sexual abuse or being naked. The NPA's priority program consists of three pillars - measures to crack down on child porn and prevent the

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distribution of such, and assistance to victimized children.

The program includes improving the existing image analysis method and looking into new methods as a means to crack down on child porn cases. The envisaged image processing team will be set up in the NPA on June 18. The NPA hope that the establishment of such a team will lead to identifying or cracking down on suspects. It will also look into new investigation methods. As part of such efforts, it will send staffers to foreign investigative organs for training.

In order to prevent the distribution of child porn, the team will cooperate with the organization of providers that looks into a method called "blocking," which blocks access to child porn sites. The organization plans to set up a body that maps out a list of addresses of child porn sites. The program notes that information will be provided to that body. In assisting victimized children, the NPA will speed up efforts to establish a system under which the image analyzing team identifies such children from the clothes they were wearing. The program also notes that the NPA will look into measures to enhance measures to assist victims, including adopting a method of questioning that gives more consideration to them, and continuous counseling.

(8) Child porn: No prospect for amending law: Japan falling behind effort to eradicate the crime

NIKKEI (Page 20) (Abridged slightly)
Evening, June 18, 2009

The National Police Agency (NPA) has adopted a priority program, following a surging international move to eradicate child pornography, which is being distributed on the Internet and easily crossing national boundaries. Japan's law regulating child porn has been pointed out as insufficient by other countries. However, Diet deliberations on it remain stalled. Moves of other government agencies in charge of enlightening people about the illegality of child porn and taking care of victimized children are also slow. It is imperative for the government and society to tackle the issue.

Japan once came under fire in the international community because of the many packaged overseas sex tours and for distributing child porn. In 1999, the Diet enacted the Child Protection Law against Child Prostitution and Child Pornography. The law, however, does not regulate simple possession of child porn and animated film of such. Japan and Russia are the only countries among the G-8 member nations that do not regulate simple possession of child pornography. This has been criticized because it could become a loop hole in international cooperative efforts to crack down on child pornography.

Following such moves, the ruling parties and the Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ) respectively submitted a bill amending the law. While the ruling party-sponsored bill bans simple possession of child porn, the bill submitted by the DPJ bans obtaining such repeatedly or by paying for it. Since specific process, such as talks to make modifications to those bills has yet to be set, there is no outlook for amending the law.

The government in the action program to create a crime-resistant society, adopted in late 2008, declared that it will stage a national movement aimed to root out child porn. The NPA has also noted that it will look into cooperation with related government

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agencies. However, specific measures have yet to be looked into. A path to a national movement is not yet in sight.

(9) Chinese unable to go home: Refused entry twice by PRC authorities, stranded in Japan

SANKEI (Page 3) (Full)
June 19, 2009

It was learned on June 18 that a Chinese human rights activist, Feng Zhenghu, 54, from Shanghai, had been refused entry by a Chinese airport on June 7 and refused boarding by an airline on June 17. He is now stranded in Japan.

According to a source having access to Mr Feng, he has been involved with pro-democracy and human rights activities and was arrested by the Chinese public security authorities in February. Later, he was released on condition that he would stay abroad until June 4, which marked the 20th anniversary of the Tiananmen Incident, so he came to Japan on April 1. While in Japan, he has been engaged in activities to introduce people to the current state of democracy in China.

Feng flew from Narita Airport to Shanghai Pudong International Airport on June 7 but was refused entry at the airport. The reason given the police officers who surrounded him was: "This is an order from above." He was given an All Nippon Airways ticket for Kansai International Airport and told to return to Japan. He had no choice but to head for Kansai Airport.

Feng again tried to go home from Narita on an Air China flight on the morning of June 17, but the airline refused to let him board the plane. He stayed overnight at the departure area but was unable to board a flight, so he is still in Japan.

According to the above source, the airline staff explained that: "This is an order from above. We cannot let you board the plane." Feng says: "China is controlled by a handful of rulers and the police. It is unthinkable that one cannot go back to one's own country. This is shameful for China."

The Tokyo immigration office in Narita says: "He was cleared for embarkation and should be able to go home. However, we cannot interfere with an airline company's action."

ZUMWALT